



RICHARD JONES
ARCHITECTURE

Its about Design, Again!

By Brad Anderson
Photos Ren Dittfield

Ask Richard Jones, A.I.A about Delray Beach and a big smile appears upon his face. Jones, a local Architect who has also been a Delray Beach resident for over 10 years exclaims, “I am so proud to say I Live, Play, and now Work all in Downtown Delray!”

When he is not seen walking in the beach area with his 2 young daughters sporting one of his colorful “DELRAY” t-shirts, or enjoying lunch with his wife Karen in one of the Avenue’s restaurants, he can now be found at his new office lofts in the Historic 1923 Masonic Building overlooking Old School Square. “This city is electrifying”, says Jones. “There are very few coastal cities who’s main street through town (Atlantic Ave.) culminates at the Ocean. It’s the best of both worlds converging, a downtown urban lifestyle with the beach as your backyard.”

Jones, who recently left a firm in Boca Raton where he was a Partner, to start Richard Jones Architecture Inc. was soon followed by 4 others from his former firm. “I call us the Fab-5”, says Jones. “We all share the same design philosophy. We value quality of quantity. We strive to do more with less, and above all we pay close attention to details. It’s the details that are remembered and leave a lasting image. It’s the character of the Architecture that makes a community; it’s about design, again.”

Richard Jones Architecture is registered in 6 states and they have active projects from Charlotte, NC. to Key West, Fl. Jones keeps his clients happy with fresh innovative designs both residential and commercial and he prides himself on being involved with every project in a way he refers to as, “Conception thru Construction”, “I do not hand off projects, I work with my associates and at the same time they

learn how to design buildings keeping the clients and builders goals in mind. As a result we create designs that are as buildable as they are innovative.”

Jones inspiration comes through his love of books, history, and what he jokingly refers to as “Architectural Travel”. “My wife and I seek out new interesting places that are off the beaten path. These locations offer not only your typical vacation comforts but are noted for inspirational architecture and creative town planning.” In fact, it was after a trip to Dutch St. Marten and several trips to new urbanist communities Rosemary Beach, and Alys Beach in the Florida Panhandle that Jones found the inspiration for designing his family’s residence along Delray’s coast. The residence is featured in this month’s Atlantic Avenue magazine fashion shoot. In what he calls true “Dutch Caribbean Style” Jones created a beach area masterpiece that fits in well with existing cottages and eclectic styled beach area homes. “We wanted to fit in rather than stand out, says Jones. “I made sure we were true to scale, materials, proportions, and of course details. I give Karen all the credit for colors and interior finishes and she was very patient”, Jones says with a smile. Not only did they design the house but Jones also Owner/Built it over 18 months. The experience he says made him a better Architect for understanding all the issues a general contractor encounters when building a project. The arrangement of porches, balconies, outdoor



Key West Townhomes



Village Square Workforce Housing



Boca Harbor Island Residence



The Jones Family enjoying the beautiful “Dutch Caribbean Style” residence featuring a 3-story volume that opens, via a spiral staircase, to a third floor bunk room.

fireplace courtyard and pool courtyard invite individuals outdoors. The interior features a 3-story volume that opens to a third floor bunk room The bunk room with full bath will comfortably sleep 4 and offer a view of the Intracoastal Waterway.

The Dutch Caribbean influence continued in Jones’s practice as at the same time he was designing “The Villages”, the 900 unit mixed-income townhomes and condo community in Delray’s South West Neighborhood. The Villages is slated to be the largest work-force housing community in the state of Florida. Jones also is designing several local affordable for sale and for rent apartment communities including new innovative home designs for Habitat for Humanity. Jones, says, “Just because it’s affordable does not mean it has to look affordable”, Good design and site planning does not have to be costly to construct to be good. To have an opportunity to change a person’s quality of life through Architecture is a rewarding experience.”

Jones’s body of work also includes many deep water custom residences along Florida’s coast, mountain homes in the Carolina’s, apartments in Charlotte, townhomes both local and in Maryland, a mixed use project in Tennessee, mid-rise condos, restaurants and retail, as well as sustainable green communities. His firm has just finished plans for Ocean Mall on Singer Island. They are also working on re-designing two downtown Delray residential projects to be converted to commercial office.

Jones offers to client’s more than just good design. His knowledge of the industry, trends, construction, and markets can help reposition a project or provide key information that helps make a project more viable. He has on several occasions introduced developers to each other that have led to successful joint venture projects.

For now, Jones says the move to his new office has been a huge success. “This Delray guy is having fun,” he says, again with a smile. When the cooler weather arrives he is looking forward to walking to work. Keep an eye out for the Architect in the “DELRAY” T-shirt. We look forward to seeing more of his firm’s signature style built here in Delray Beach. ■